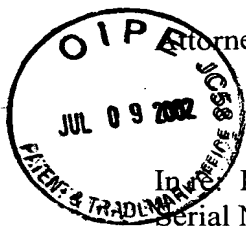


1731



Attorney's Docket No. 628-318CT

PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

#4

Inventor: David McCray Peele

Serial No.: 09/735,177

Group Art Unit: 1731

Filed: December 12, 2000

Examiner: D. Walls

For: TOBACCO PROCESSING

Date: July 3, 2002

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231

RECEIVED
JUL 11 2002
TC 1700

SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Sir:

Attached is a list of documents on form PTO-1449 together with a copy of each identified document. It is requested that these documents be considered by the Examiner and officially made of record in accordance with the provisions of 37 C.F.R. § 1.97 and Section 609 of the MPEP. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fee, which may be required, or credit any refund, to our Deposit Account No. 50-0220.

In addition, in order to facilitate consideration of certain of the references listed on the form PTO1449, Applicant hereby provides a concise explanation thereof as follows.

- 1. Document # 99 is entitled *Defendant R.J. Reynolds Tobacco Company's Amended And Supplemental Responses to Plaintiff's First Set of Interrogatories.***

At page 2 to page 5 in the "Response to Interrogatory No. 1," a description of R.J. Reynolds Tobacco Company's (hereinafter "RJR") activities with respect to the study of TSNA's in tobacco is provided. At page 5 to page 6, in the "Amended and Supplemental Response to Interrogatory No. 3" a description of the barns purchased from Vencon Varsos and the fan purchased from Long are provided.

At page 23, in the Response to Interrogatory No. 15, in the second paragraph thereof, a description of the state of the art by the Assignee of record, RJR, is provided. At pages 24-26, additional description of the Vencon-Varsos operation manuals and other activities related to bulk curing barns are described. Such operation manuals are a part of Document # 99 and have been submitted.

2. Document # 100 is entitled *Declaration of G. Brent Hunter*.

Document #100 describes Mr. Hunter's purchase of a tobacco-curing barn in 1976 manufactured by Powell Manufacturing. Attached at Exhibits C and D of Document # 100 are a "Bulk Curing Manual" and "Bulk Curing/Drying Owner's/Operator's Manual for Flue Cured Tobaccos" that accompanied the barn. Mr. Hunter states that during the cure following the cure schedule proposed by Powell air flows through the barn.

3. Document # 106 is entitled *Declaration of Leroy Lynch*

Document #106 describes Mr. Lynch's purchase of a Long manufactured barn purchased in 1983. The owner's manual is attached to the Declaration. In the Declaration, Mr. Lynch states that the original fan was replaced in the 1980's to improve airflow.

It is requested that these documents and the other cited references be made of record in accordance with the provisions of 37 C.F.R. § 1.97 and Section 609 of the MPEP.

Customer Number:



20792

Respectfully submitted,

F. Michael Sajovec
Registration No. 31,793

Certificate of Mailing under 37 CFR 1.8

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in a box addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, Washington, DC 20231 on July 3, 2002.

Clara R. Beard